

REMARKS

The following issues are outstanding in the pending application:

- Claim 24 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c);
- Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 USC 112;
- Claims 1, 2 5, 6, 13-17, 19, 27, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 UCS 103(a);
- Claims 7, 9-12 and 18 have been found to be allowable.

Claim amendment

The subject matter of claim 9 has been added to independent claim 1 and 27. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claims 7, 15-17 and 30 have been amended to overcome the Section 112 rejections. Claims 1, 7, 25, 27-29 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added.

37 CFR 1.75(c)

Claim 24 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. This claim has been amended to depend from claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has been overcome.

35 USC § 112

Claims 1-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 7, 15-17 and 30 have been amended in order to overcome this rejection.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2 5, 6, 13-17, 19, 27, 28 and 30 have been rejected under 35 UCS 103(a) as having subject matter unpatentable over US. Pat. No. 3,593,622 to Sengewalt in view of U.S> Pat. No. 4,517,790 to Kreager. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The allowable subject matter of claim 9 has been added to independent claims 1 and 27. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome. If an

independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, than any claim depending therefrom is by definition non-obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 5, 6, 13-17, 19, 28 and 30 depend at least in part from independent amended claims 1 and 27 respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of claims 1, 2 5, 6, 13-17, 19, 27, 28 and 30 under 35 UCS 103(a) as having subject matter unpatentable over US. Pat. No. 3,593,622 to Sengewalt in view of U.S> Pat. No. 4,517,790 to Kreager.

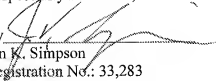
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P03099US0 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jan K. Simpson
Registration No.: 33,283
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
Fulbright Tower
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100
Houston, Texas 77010-3095
(713) 651-5151
(713) 651-5246 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant